

**HISTORIC WATERWAYS; SIX  
HUNDRED MILES OF  
CANOEING DOWN THE ROCK,  
FOX AND WISCONSIN RIVERS**

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Historic Waterways; Six Hundred Miles of Canoeing down the Rock, Fox and Wisconsin Rivers by Reuben Gold Thwaites

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**REUBEN GOLD THWAITES**

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## HISTORIC WATERWAYS

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SIX HUNDRED MILES OF CANOEING  
DOWN THE ROCK, FOX, AND  
WISCONSIN RIVERS

BY

REUBEN GOLD THWAITES

SECRETARY OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

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Other roads do some violence to Nature, and bring the traveller to stare at her; but the river steals into the scenery it traverses without intrusion, silently creating and adorning it, and is free to come and go as the zephyr. — THOREAU; *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*.

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CHICAGO

A. C. McCLURG AND COMPANY

1888

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A.D. 1888.

**This Little Volume**

**IS INSCRIBED BY THE AUTHOR**

**TO HIS WIFE,**

**HIS MESSMATE UPON TWO OF THE THREE VACATION**

**VOYAGES HEREIN RECORDED,**

**AND HIS FELLOW-VOYAGER DOWN THE RIVER**

**OF TIME.**





## PREFACE.

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**T**HERE is a generally accepted notion that a brief summer vacation, if at all obtainable in this busy life of ours, must be spent in a flight as far afield as time will allow; that the popular resorts in the mountains, by the seaside, or on the margins of the upper lakes must be sought for rest and enjoyment; that neighborhood surroundings should, in the mad rush for change of air and scene, be left behind. The result is that your average vacationist—if I may be allowed to coin a needed word—knows less of his own State than of any other, and is inattentive to the delights of nature which await inspection within the limits of his horizon.

But let him mount his bicycle, his saddle-horse, or his family carriage, and start out upon a gypsy tour of a week or two along the country roads, exploring the hills and plains and valleys of—say his congressional dis-

trict ; or, better by far, take his canoe, and with his best friend for a messmate explore the nearest river from source to mouth, and my word for it he will find novelty and fresh air enough to satisfy his utmost cravings ; and when he comes to return to his counter, his desk, or his study, he will be conscious of having discovered charms in his own locality which he has in vain sought in the accustomed paths of the tourist.

This volume is the record of six hundred miles of canoeing experiences on historic waterways in Wisconsin and Illinois during the summer of 1887. There has been no attempt at exaggeration, to color its homely incidents, or to picture charms where none exist. It is intended to be a simple, truthful narrative of what was seen and done upon a series of novel outings through the heart of the Northwest. If it may induce others to undertake similar excursions, and thus increase the little navy of healthy and self-satisfied canoeists, the object of the publication will have been attained.

I am under obligations to my friend, the Hon. Levi Alden, for valuable assistance in the revision of proof-sheets.

R. G. T.

MADISON, Wis., December, 1887.



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